

New Jersey Highlights of the 2007 American Community Survey

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The American Community Survey (ACS) is the US Census Bureau's answer to data user's ever increasing need for more timely data. It is also a critical component of the bureau's re-engineered decennial census for 2010. The Census Bureau has defined the goals of the ACS as follows:

(1.) Provide federal, state, local, and tribal governments an information base for the administration and evaluation of their programs. (2.) Improve the 2010 Census. (3.) Provide data users with timely demographic, housing, social, and economic data updated every year that can be compared across states, communities, and population groups.

In the past, the decennial census has been the source of data needed by federal, state, and local governments to distribute funding among jurisdictions and population groups. The problem with the decennial census is that the data became out-of-date quickly as the decade progressed. However, with the ACS, more timely annual data will be available to identify changes in population, housing and their related characteristics.

Throughout the decade, the ACS will annually collect data typically found on the decennial census' "long form" questionnaire. The "long form" is a sample based survey used to collect and estimate demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of the population and housing stock. The ACS will replace the need for a "long form" questionnaire in the decennial census and allow resources to focus on a "short form" census every 10 years. The "short form" will be used to provide counts of people and housing units only.

Population

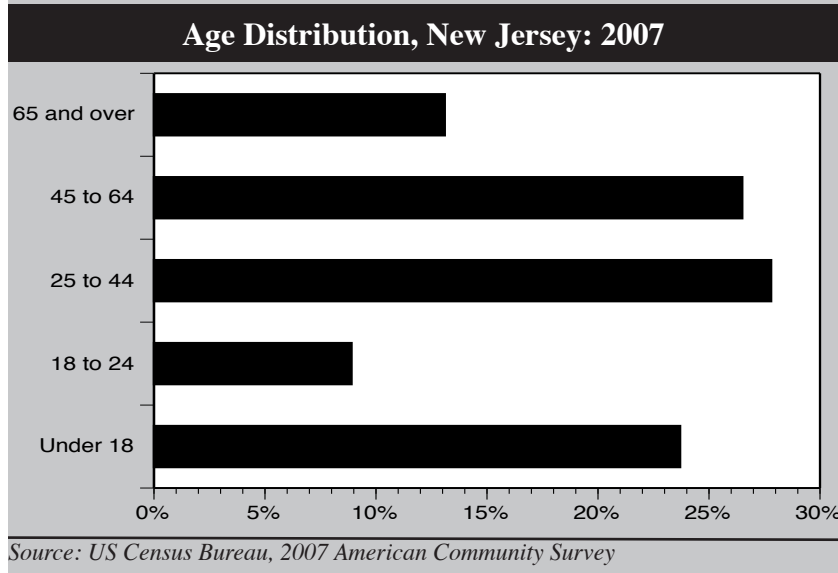
According to the 2007 ACS, New Jersey's estimated total population was 8,685,920. This ranks the Garden State 11th nationally; California (36.6 million) was the most populated state, and Wyoming (0.5 million) the least populated.

Among counties, Bergen County was home to the most residents with 895,744 persons or 10.3 percent of the state's total population. At the other end of the spectrum was Salem County with a population of only 66,016 persons.

Age, Race and Sex

The median age in New Jersey was 38.4 years old, the 10th oldest among all states. Maine had the oldest median age at 41.7 years while Utah was the youngest state at 28.4 years. The median age nationally, in 2007, was 36.7 years of age. A look at New Jersey's counties reveals that the median age ranged from a slightly younger 35.6 years in Cumberland County to a more distinguished 43.9 years in Cape May County. More than 23.0 percent (2.1 million persons)

Chart 1



of New Jersey's population were under 18 years of age while 1.1 million or 13.1 percent were 65 years old and over. Approximately 5.5 million or 63.2 percent of total population were between 18 and 64 years of age.

Nearly 8.5 million (98.4%) New Jersey residents report themselves as one race. Just under 71.0 percent (6 million persons) were white; 13.9 percent (1.2 million persons) were Black or African American; and 7.5 percent (600,000 million persons) were Asian. New Jersey

ranks third behind Hawaii (38.8%) and California (12.3%) in the percentage of the population who report themselves as Asian alone. Among any of the race categories, 1.4 million (15.9%) report themselves as being Hispanic or of Latino origin.

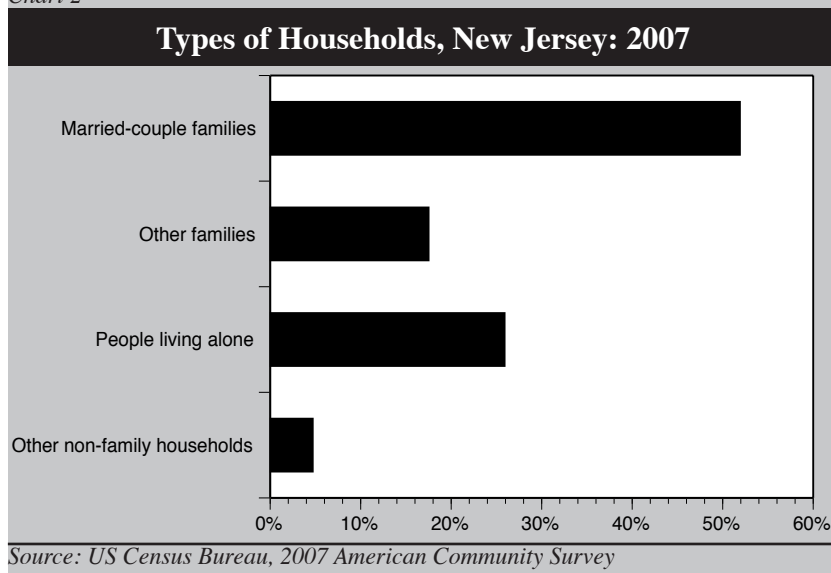
As a state, New Jersey was 51.0 percent (4.4 million persons) female and 49.0 percent (4.3 million persons) male. This closely mirrors the national gender distribution of 50.7 percent female and 49.3 percent male.

Population

In 2007, the Garden State was home to some 3.1 million households. The size of an average household in New Jersey was 2.7 persons which ranked 8th largest nationally. The national average household size in 2007 was 2.6 people. Utah was the state with the largest household size (3.1 persons) and North Dakota had the smallest (2.3 persons).

In New Jersey, 2.2 million households (69.4%) were family households. The average family size was 3.3 persons. Married-couple family households accounted for 1.6 million (51.9%) households in the state while other families totaled just over half a million persons (550,060 or 17.5%).

Chart 2



Statewide, non-family households made up nearly 1 million (30.6%) of all households in 2007. Persons living alone accounted for 25.9 percent of households and those households with one or more people aged 65 years and over accounted for 25.0 percent of total households in the state. A closer look at both of these groups reveal that nearly 10.0 percent of New Jersey households are made up of householders aged 65 years and over and living alone.

Place of Birth and Language Spoken

Results from the 2007 ACS show that in the United States, 12.6 percent of the total population was considered foreign born. The results also show that approximately one out of every five persons (1.7 million or 19.9%) living in New Jersey was foreign born. California (27.4%) and New York (21.8%) were the only states that had a higher percentage of foreign born population. Among New Jersey counties, Hudson County had the highest percentage of foreign born (40.4%) while Salem County had the lowest percentage (2.6%). Nearly 4.5 million (52.4%) of the state's population were born in New Jersey with another 2.2 million (25.4%) born in a different state.

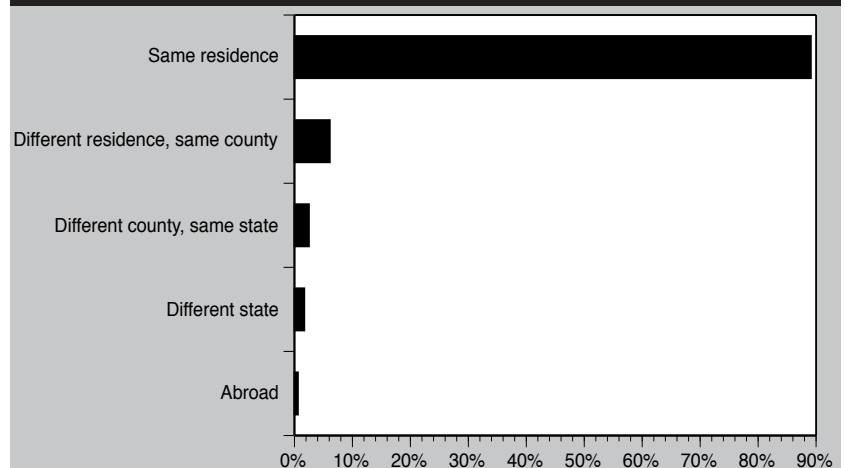
Among the population five-years old and over in New Jersey (8.1 million), 72.2 percent speak English while the remaining 27.8 percent speak a language other than English at home. This percentage ranked 6th nationally behind the states of California (42.6%), New Mexico (35.7%), Texas (33.9%), New York (28.9%) and Arizona (28.5%). Out of those New Jersey residents who speak a language other than English, 1.1 million (50.1%) speak Spanish and 41.8 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well".

Place of Residence

The 2007 ACS also reports estimates of geographic mobility for the population aged one- year and over. Of the 8.6 million people in this age cohort, 89.1 percent (7.6 million persons) were living in the same residence as in the previous year. Another 6.1 percent moved within the past year from another residence in the same county; 2.5 percent moved from a different county within New Jersey; 1.7 percent moved here from out of state, and 0.6 percent moved to the Garden State from abroad.

Chart 3

Geographic Mobility of Residents, New Jersey: 2007

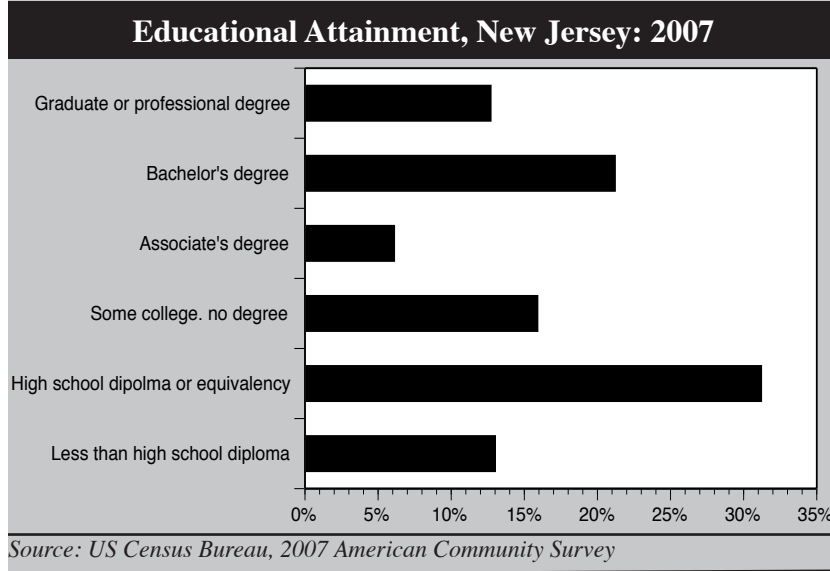


Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Educational Attainment

In 2007, the educational attainment level of New Jersey's population 25 years and older was above the national average. The ACS reported that 87.0 percent had a high school education or higher and 33.9 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. This surpasses the national average of 84.5 percent with a high school education or higher and 27.5 percent with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Chart 4



The ACS also reported that total school enrollment for 2007 was nearly 2.3 million. Enrollment in nursery school and kindergarten was approximately 282,500. Just over 1.4 million were enrolled in elementary (grades 1-8) and high school (grades 9-12). Those pursuing higher-level education in college and graduate school accounted for more than 562,600 persons.

Disability

Among New Jersey's eight million non-institutionalized population at least five years of age in 2007, 11.9 percent reported a disability. This is slightly below the US average of 14.9 percent. Across age groups, as one would expect, this percentage increased in older age groups. In New Jersey, those aged 5 to 15, were reported to have a 5.1 percent (63,620 persons) disability rate. The 16 to 64 year-old category had 8.9 percent (507,347 persons) reporting a disability. The 65-year and over age group had the largest rate of disabilities reported at 35.4 percent (383,730 persons).

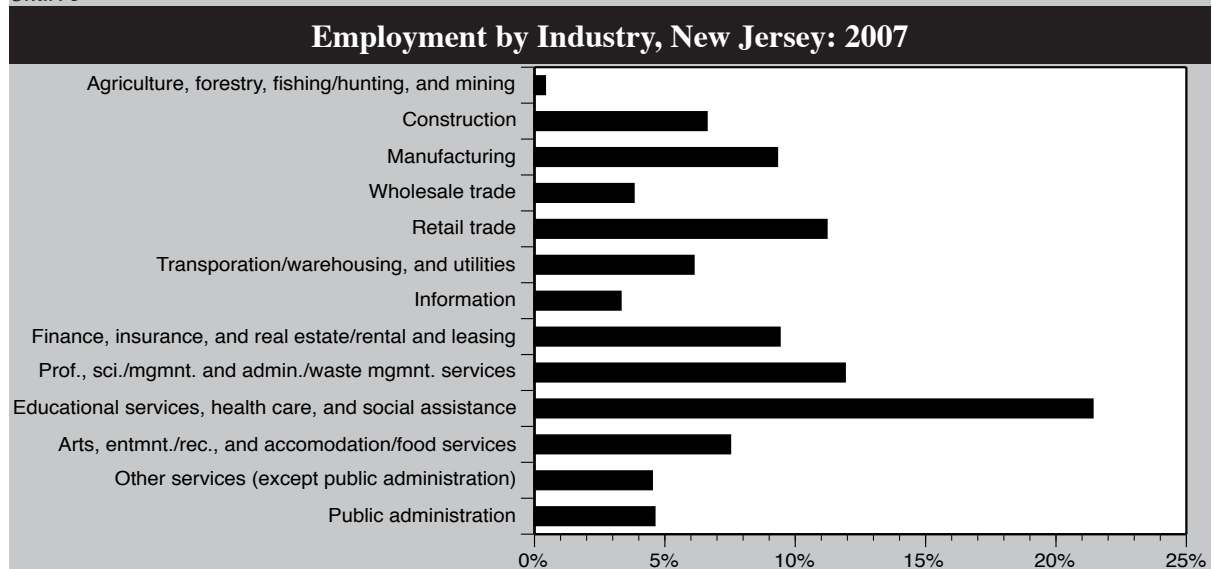
Employment Status and Industry Employment

The employment status data reported in the 2007 ACS relate to the population 16-years of age and over. Approximately 6.9 million persons in New Jersey were part of this age group in 2007. Those considered in the labor force from this group was 4.5 million persons (69.5%). Nationally, the rate of those considered in the labor force from this age group was 64.8 percent. In 2007, 46.5 percent of those persons in the labor force aged 16 years and over were female and 53.5 percent were male.

In New Jersey, for the employed population 16 years and over, the industries employing the greatest number of persons were educational services, health care and social assistance

(911,775 or 21.4%), professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services (507,206 or 11.9%), and retail trade (478,464 or 11.2%).

Chart 5



Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Occupations and Class of Worker

The 2007 ACS results also indicated that the most common occupations among New Jersey's employed population were management, professional, and related occupations (1,653,792 or 38.9%); sales and office occupations (1,154,862 or 27.2%); service occupations (660,267 or 15.5%); production, transportation, and material moving occupations (432,907 or 10.2%); and construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations (342,257 or 8.0%). The vast majority of people employed in New Jersey are private sector wage and salary workers (3,405,302 or 80.1%). Another 14.5 percent (617,099) worked for federal, state, or local government. Slightly more than five percent were self-employed in their own non-incorporated business (221,762 or 5.2%).

Commuting to Work

The preferred means of commuting to work in New Jersey is driving to work alone. More than 71.8 percent of workers traveled to work this way while an additional 9.2 percent car-pooled to work. Those who reported using public transportation to commute to work accounted for 10.4 percent of workers; 3.2 percent walked to work; and another 3.3 percent work at home. According to the ACS, the average commute time in New Jersey was 29.8 minutes. This ranked as the fourth longest commute time behind New York (31.5 minutes), Maryland (31.1 minutes) and the District of Columbia (30.1 minutes). North Dakota had the shortest commute time (16.1 minutes). Nationally, the average travel time to work was 25.3 minutes.

Income

The median household income in New Jersey was second among all the states at \$67,035 behind only Maryland (\$68,080). Rounding out the top five were Connecticut (\$65,967), Alaska (\$64,333) and Hawaii (\$63,746). Nationally, the median household income was \$50,740. Mississippi was the state with the lowest median household income at \$36,338. Among New Jersey counties, the three counties with the highest median household income were Hunterdon County (\$100,327), Somerset County (\$97,658), and Morris County (\$94,684). The county with the lowest median household income was Cumberland County (\$47,883).

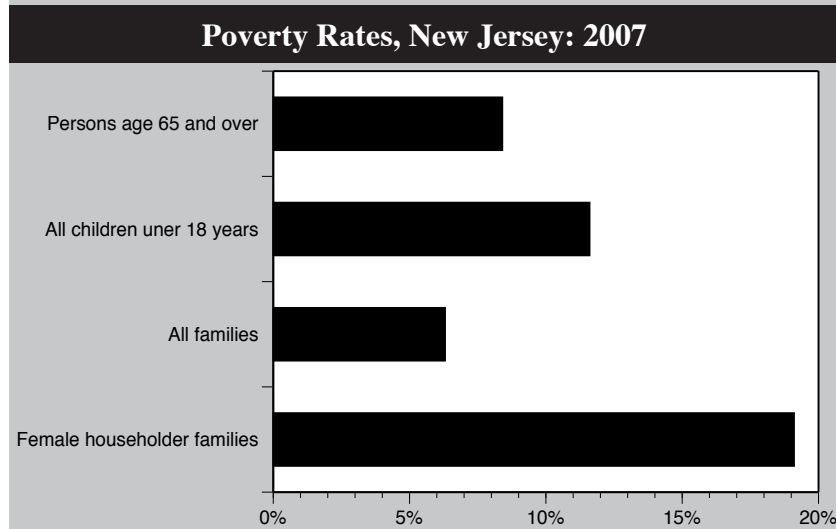
The median family income for the state in 2007 was \$81,823, ranking second among all states behind top ranked Maryland (\$82,404). Mississippi was also lowest in this income category (\$44,769). The median family income for the U.S. in 2007 was \$61,173. Not surprisingly, the three New Jersey counties with the highest median family income were the same as those with the highest median household income: Hunterdon County (\$117,001), Somerset County (\$111,809), and Morris County (\$111,464). Hudson County had the lowest median household income (\$53,528).

Poverty

The 2007 ACS reports that 8.6 percent of New Jerseyans were living below the poverty level. Only Maryland (8.3%), Hawaii (8.0%), Connecticut (7.9%), and New Hampshire (7.1%) had lower percentages of people in poverty status. Mississippi (20.6%), Louisiana (18.6%), and New Mexico (18.1%) had the highest percentage of people below poverty level. The percentage of people in poverty nationally in 2007 was 13 percent. At the county level, Cumberland County (18.5%), Hudson County (13.7%), and Passaic County (13.7%) had the greatest percentage of persons living below poverty level while Somerset County (2.6%) had the lowest percentage.

The percentage of New Jersey residents under 18 years of age that are living below the poverty level was 11.6 percent while the percentage of people 65 years and over that are living in poverty was 8.4 percent. The percentage of all New Jersey families living below the poverty level was 6.3 percent in 2007. This percentage tripled for those families with a female householder but no husband present (19.1%).

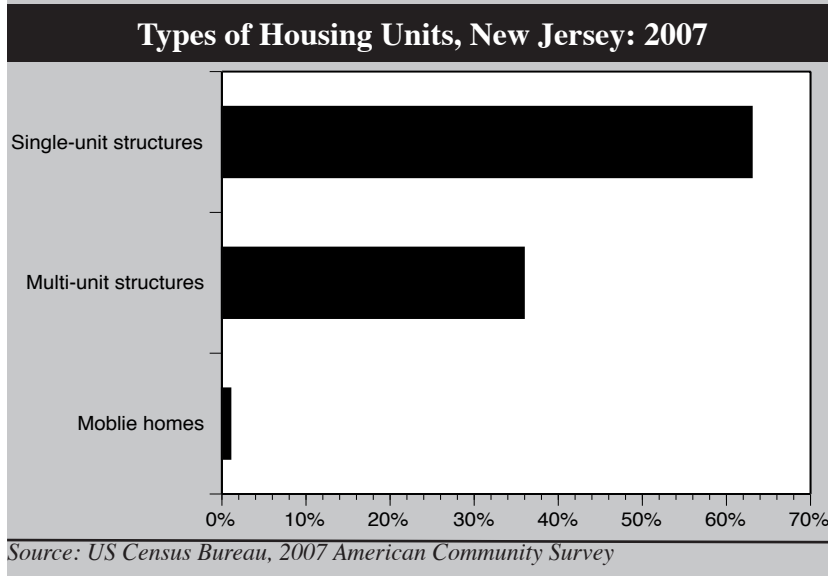
Chart 6



Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Housing Characteristics

Chart 7

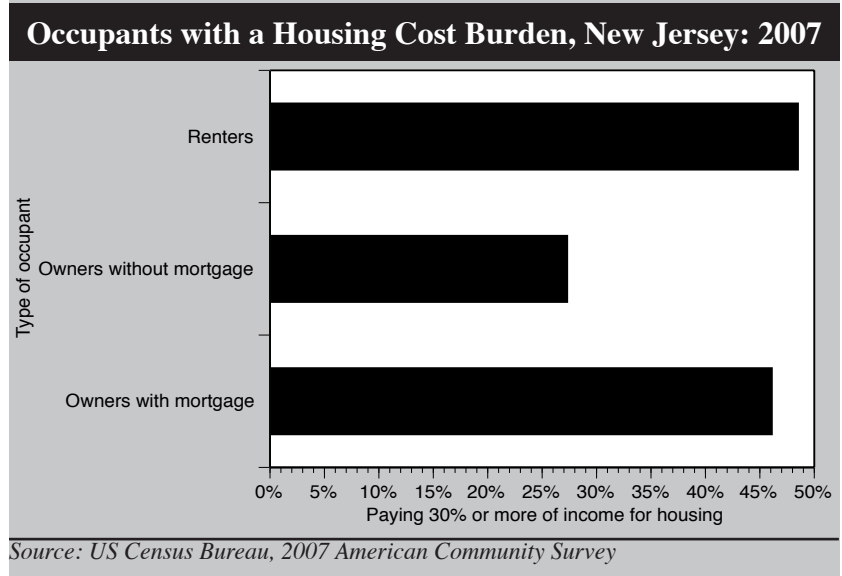


New Jersey had approximately 3.5 million housing units in 2007. Just over 2.2 million (63.0%) were single-unit structures. Another 35.9 percent (1,256,313) were multi-unit structures and the remaining one percent were mobile homes. Ten percent (348,876) of total housing units in the Garden State were vacant in 2007. Slightly over half a million (16.9%) of the housing units in New Jersey were built after 1990.

Among the 3.1 million occupied housing units in New Jersey, just over 2.1 million (67.3%) are owner-occupied. The remaining 32.7 percent (1,030,912) were renter-occupied housing units. Some of the more interesting characteristics of housing units in New Jersey include 4.9 percent (154,985) having no telephone service available; 11.6 percent (364,142) have no vehicles available while 54.6 percent (1,720,575) had two or more vehicles available; and 71.9 percent (2,264,266) of housing units heat their homes with natural gas from the utility company.

Median monthly housing costs for owners with a mortgage was \$2,278 while owners without a mortgage paid \$829 monthly and renters paid \$1026 in housing costs.

Chart 8



Note: The results from the US Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey (ACS) includes "group quarters" data. These data were included beginning with the 2006 ACS. Group quarters population is defined as those persons living in prisons, college dorms, barracks, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, etc. This segment of the population was not included in the 2005 American Community Survey Data and prior year's ACS data that were based on household population only. This is an important distinction when making comparisons of data prior to the 2006 ACS.

Sample Size and Data Availability

In 2005, the ACS began full implementation using a rolling, random sample of housing addresses throughout the US every month. The annual sample size of the ACS is about 3 million housing unit addresses nationally. Prior to 2005 (2000-2004), as part of its testing phase, the ACS had a sample size of about 800,000 addresses per year and produced estimates for all geographies with at least 250,000 people. These geographies included the US, states, places, counties and metropolitan areas. The release of annual estimates from the ACS for geographic areas with a population of 65,000 or more began in 2006. For New Jersey, data is now available for the State and all 21 counties, all 13 Congressional Districts, all 7 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), and the 19 largest county subdivisions (municipalities) with population greater than 65,000. In 2008, 3-year average estimates will be available for geographic areas with population of 20,000 or more. In 2010, 5-year average estimates will be available for geographies smaller than 20,000 people including census tracts and block groups. From 2010 on, all estimates will be updated annually.

Table 1

American Community Survey Release Dates									
Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the previous year released in the summer of:							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
Annual Estimates	250,000+								→
Annual Estimates	65,000+								→
3-Year Averages	20,000+								→
5-Year Averages	Census Tract and Block Group								→

☐ Data reflect American Community Survey testing through 2004.
Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office

More information, data, and other ACS topics are available online at the Office of Labor Planning and Analysis' Web site www.nj.gov/labor/lra and the US Census Bureau's Web site www.census.gov/acs/www. For more information about ACS data for New Jersey, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, PO Box 388, Trenton, NJ 08625-0388. Telephone: (609) 984-2595 or e-mail Leonard.Preston@dol.state.nj.us.